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## N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE -

re the application of: Masanori MATSUURA et al.

Serial No.: 09/835,009

Filed: April 13, 2001

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September 7, 2001

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By:

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97, and § 1.98, Applicants herewith make of record the following publications which may be material during the prosecution of the above-referenced patent application:

Japanese Patent Publication No. 63-223901, published September 19, 1988, including English Abstract; and

Japanese Patent Publication No. 3-238541, published October 24, 1991, including English Abstract.

Re: U.S.S.N. 09/835,009

This statement is *not* to be interpreted as a representation that the cited publications are material, that Applicants have conducted an exhaustive search, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any publication herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such publication is prior art. Moreover, the Applicants understand the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited publications.

A copy of the foregoing publications, a copy of two English Abstracts for the Japanese Patent Publication Nos. 63-223901 and 3-238541, and a reproduction of PTO Form 1449 accompany this statement.

No costs are believed due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if there are any associated costs, please charge them to our Deposit Order Account No. 12-0080.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 7, 2001